



**Base cleans up storm water run-off**

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***SBIRS beats  
MACS-23 for  
intramural  
champ title***

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***Force Shaping***

***Company Grade Officers  
face force boards, separations***

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# Viewpoint

## Understanding, fulfilling your role in upgrade training

By Lt. Col Craig DeZern  
460th Mission Support Squadron

The upgrade training process can be an overwhelming experience for newly assigned Airmen here. Commanders, first sergeants, unit training managers and first-line supervisors need to make upgrade training a priority. Supporting subordinates during training can give the trainee a sense of reinforcement and acceptance which promotes a positive attitude during training. A strong training program is the foundation for ensuring the mission is accomplished and goes hand-in-hand with readiness.

First-line supervisors are the key link in the training process. Supervisors rely on unit training managers to instruct them in how to execute their responsibilities. Supervisors who fail to take ownership of their primary roles in the training process are not setting the Airmen they supervise

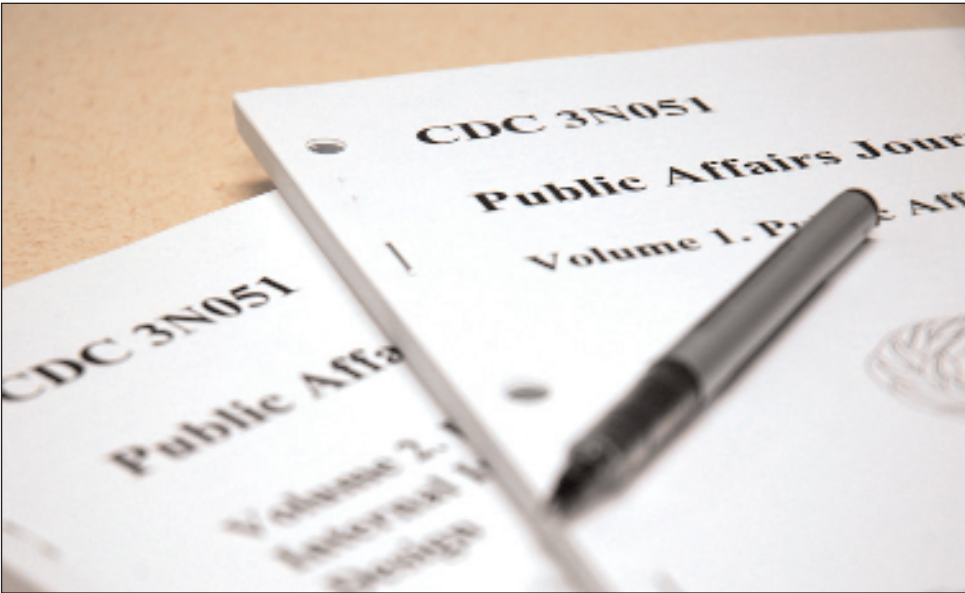


Photo by 1st Lt. Caroline Wellman

up for success and jeopardize the mission. First-line supervisors need to maintain continuous interaction with the trainee during training, providing assistance and support. A first-line supervisor who is invested in the training process is directly contributing to the readiness of the entire unit.

A trainee must complete all of their career development courses and be signed off on all core and duty position tasks before they can be awarded their 5-skill level. This should be accomplished within 24 months. Airmen who fail to acquire their 5-skill level, in the 24-month timeframe, are identi-

fied and placed into the “excessive time in training” category. This is detrimental to the mission and reflects poorly on the Airman, the Airman’s supervisor and the organization.

Although, passing CDCs and getting qualified on all core tasks is the overall responsibility of the Airman, supervisors are accountable for providing documentation that they have fulfilled their obligation in the training process. It is the first-level supervisor’s professional responsibility to provide the Airmen with the necessary training opportunities to acquire the expertise to pass their CDCs and become qualified on all core tasks. Upgrade training is an intricate part of readiness and requires the unit to make training a major priority.

The bottomline is readiness! Lack of a commitment to training denies Airmen the opportunity to reach their full potential, leads to lack of readiness and ultimately compromises the mission.

## Commander's Action Line

720-847-9881

[newspaper@buckley.af.mil](mailto:newspaper@buckley.af.mil)

Have a question, complaint or suggestion?

Don't forget the Buckley Air Force Base Action Line is designed to bring issues, concerns and comments (positive or negative) to the commander's attention.

Provide as many specifics on your issue as possible.

Please use this valuable communication tool.

### Frequently Dialed Numbers

AAFES (BX).....	720-859-9626
Base Operator.....	720-847-9011
Chapel.....	720-847-6411
CDC.....	720-847-6175
Civilian Personnel..	720-847-6373
Commissary.....	720-847-7100
Family Support.....	720-847-6681
Fitness Center.....	720-847-6144
TMO .....	720-847-6685
ID Cards.....	720-847-9159
Outdoor Rec.....	720-847-6398
ITT.....	720-847-6853
Legal.....	720-847-6444
Medical Care.....	720-847-6474
Military Pay.....	720-847-6416



Col. David W. Ziegler

### Changing gas prices

**Q.** Why do gas prices at the base gas station change daily? Shouldn't the base simply charge the price it paid for the gasoline in its storage tanks at any given time? And how is it that the gas station ran out of gas in the recent past?

**A.** Thank you for your question. Although AAFES management works hard to deliver the most cost-effective and highest-quality service possible, it is still beholden to market forces. For example, AAFES recently ran out of gas when the local servicing fuel depot ran out of gas itself. If AAFES can't get gas, it can't sell gas to the best customers in the world.

The price at base pumps is another example of how AAFES reflects the broader market. DoD policy requires AAFES to sell gas at a price equivalent to what is found outside the gate at local gas stations. They are required to survey those local competitors every day of the week and set the base's price at the calculated average price per gallon. So, although commercial gas stations are free to set prices based on supply and demand, AAFES is not. It is required to mirror prices at other gas stations on the grounds that our lawmakers want the federal government to compete in our communities on equal footing. Again, I appreciate the question.

### Announcements:

#### Team Buckley Potluck

Thursday, Dec. 8 at Hangar 909 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

All of Team Buckley is invited. Cost of admission is a dish. Unit points of contact can tell you what food your unit is responsible for. E-3s and below do not need to bring a dish; their only responsibility is to show up and have a great meal!

For more information, see the related story on page 12.

#### Child Development Center

The Buckley Child Development Center will close Dec. 9 at 3:30 p.m. to participate in the services holiday party.

Parents will not be charged for the hours between 3:30 and 5:45 p.m. and will be given credit for those hours.



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To reach us, call 720-847-9431, fax 720-847-6887 or e-mail us at [newspaper@buckley.af.mil](mailto:newspaper@buckley.af.mil).

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### Space History

**Dec. 7, 1957 --** The first fully successful test of the Thor IRBM equipped with an all-inertial guidance system took place at Cape Canaveral, Fla.

**Dec. 7, 1961 --** Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara cancels the mobile Minuteman development program.



# News

## Gen. Worley briefs Force Shaping to affected officers

By 1st Lt. Caroline Wellman  
460th Public Affairs

Representatives from Air Force Space Command briefed company grade officers, supervisors and commanders Monday concerning the April 2006 Force Shaping Boards.

The scripted briefing was part of the Air Force's effort to explain how the Air Force got into the shape its in, and what it's doing to change the situation, said Brig. Gen. Robert Worley, chief of plans and programs for AFSPC.

"The Air Force is making some tough decisions – potentially involuntarily separating some of you," he said. "It's a very hard thing to do, but it's for the health and future of the Air Force."

Beginning fiscal year 2006,

the Air Force had already reached its goal to be under authorized strength, but earlier initiatives had left the Air Force with too many officers and not enough enlisted Airmen.

"We were the right size, but the wrong shape," said Maj. Chad Deranger, chief of officer assignments at Air Force Space Command, who presented the briefing.

The excess officers, numbering nearly 4,000 in the company grade officer ranks, cost the Air Force nearly \$200 million annually. Additionally, assigning more than one officer to a manpower authorization reduces the chances that an officer will be properly groomed for future leadership. Ultimately, that means more officers being passed over for promotion, he said.

This also means there aren't enough enlisted Airmen to complete the mission, and retention is negatively affected.

### Re-shaping the force

As a result of the manpower problems, the Air Force will institute Force Shaping Boards in April 2006.

Normally, officers will face force shaping boards during their third year of commissioned service. The 2002 and 2003 year groups will be the first groups to face boards beginning next year.

Officers selected for separation in the April 2006 boards will be notified before June 1, and must separate before Sept. 29.

All voluntary separation programs will close for the 2002 and 2003 year groups March 1.

"Ultimately, the annual force

shaping boards will reduce major oscillations to the force," Major Deranger said.

### The problem emerges

"After Sept. 11, 2001, patriotism soared," said Major Deranger. Consequently, the Air Force increased its accessions and offered more retention incentives.

By 2003, the Air Force's overstrength, or actual strength beyond what is authorized by Congress, became alarming and the Secretary of Defense directed the Air Force to remedy the problem.

As a result, the Air Force offered multiple Force Shaping programs including expanded Palace Chase options, the Blue to Green program, waived active duty service commitments and limited enlisted accessions.

The force shaping boards are simply the latest effort to re-shape the Air Force into the proper proportion of officer to enlisted, and keep it under the authorized strength -- the right size and the right shape.

### Key Dates for 2006 Boards

**Jan. 13**  
*Retention recommendation files are due to wing*

**Feb. 3**  
*Retention recommendation files are due to headquarters*

**March 1**  
*Voluntary separation programs close*

**April 3**  
*Force Shaping Boards convene*

**June 1**  
*Cut-off for officers selected for separation to be notified*

**Sept. 29**  
*Mandatory separation date for selected officers (Officers may separate earlier if desired.)*

### Useful Force Shaping Resources

**Force Shaping Web site:** [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape.htm)

**Records Review e-mail address:** [records.review@randolph.af.mil](mailto:records.review@randolph.af.mil)

**Additional Web sites:** [www.dodtransportal.dod.mil](http://www.dodtransportal.dod.mil) [www1.va.gov/OPA/feature](http://www1.va.gov/OPA/feature), [www.dol.gov/vets](http://www.dol.gov/vets), [www.dod.jobsearch.org](http://www.dod.jobsearch.org), [www.afcrossroads.com](http://www.afcrossroads.com)

## Healthy water ecosystems require individual effort

By 1st Lt. Caroline Wellman  
460th Public Affairs

Buckley Air Force Base's impact on the local community goes beyond the economy. It also extends to the environment.

As a military facility, Buckley AFB is responsible for maintaining and regulating its own storm sewer system – a

network of ditches, culverts, street gutters, curbs and buried pipes that carry run-off away from infrastructure areas like parking lots and streets.

Like many storm sewer systems, Buckley AFB's system does not channel water to a treatment facility, said Mr. Corwin Oldweiler, the base's storm water coordinator and a contractor with Clayton Group Services.

That means that all pollutants – from trash to household chemicals to leaking car oil – are carried by run-off into the storm sewer system and eventually into an area creek or river, or Aurora's storm water system.

The difference between Buckley AFB's storm sewer system and other storm sewer systems commonly found in the eastern United States is that the run-off is not combined with sanitary sewage and sent to a sewage treatment facility, Mr. Oldweiler said. In older, combined systems, major storms can lead to system overflow and emergency outlets dump untreated sewage into natural drainages.

Because run-off is not sent to a water treatment facility, the system's design also requires people to act as responsible stewards of the environment.

"Our storm water run-off carries pollutants and sediment -- generally the biggest pollution problem, but regulated separately -- into the system," Mr. Oldweiler said. "None of the pollutants are large problems by themselves, but the bits and pieces add up when it's all washed into the same water body, and it can have a negative impact on the quality of water and the surrounding ecosystem."

### How you can help improve water quality

The most common pollutants include trash, like fast-food wrappers, cigarette butts or Styrofoam cups; and toxins, like motor oil, antifreeze or pet droppings. People can help improve the quality of storm water run-off by reducing these everyday pollutants. These simple actions can go a long way to reducing pollution and improving appearance:

- Dispose of trash in trash bins
- Pick up trash and litter when you see it, and dispose of it properly
- Clean up after pets
- Use, store and dispose of household cleaners properly
- Check vehicles for leaks and have them repaired
- Recycle motor oil and antifreeze
- Use car wash facilities to eliminate uncontrolled run-off

Because of the impact on the environment, Congress enacted the Clean Water Act.

-- see *Water*, pg. 5



Photo by Mr. Earl Mikula

Buckley AFB's storm water system does not channel run-off to a treatment facility. Instead, water runs into natural ditches and drainages in the local area, to include the South Platte River, Toll Gate Creek and Sand Creek.

# Team Buckley welcomes honorary commanders

By 1st Lt. Caroline Wellman  
460th Public Affairs

Buckley Air Force Base welcomed its second group of honorary commanders Tuesday at an induction ceremony at the Space Wing Headquarters building that highlighted the best Buckley AFB has to offer.

The co-commander program is designed to foster relationships between leaders in the local community and the men and women of Team Buckley.

“The hope is that the program allows civilians from the local community to get a better look into the lives of Buckley’s people,” said Mr. John Spann, Chief of Public Affairs for the 460th Space Wing. “And in return, people assigned to Buckley gain increased under-

standing of the local community.”

“The program matches on-base leadership from the various units here with leaders off-base – people considered leaders in the local community,” said Col. David Ziegler, 460th Space Wing commander. “By building relationships at the individual level between leaders, we are also establishing bridges between the community and the base.”

During the ceremony, co-commanders were introduced to unit commanders, and some of the pomp and circumstance of the military. The afternoon event featured military escorts, a sabre arch and the official presentation of the colors.

“Tonight’s event was

designed to honor them,” Mr. Spann said. “We wanted to expose them to the ceremonial aspects of the military, but other events throughout the year will be designed to teach them more about the different missions here and how they play into the nation’s defense.”

“The co-commanders program is really a two way street,” said Mr. Kevin Hougen, president of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. “It’s a chance for the community to learn about the base, but it’s also a chance for

our business and civic leaders to support the young men and women of Buckley, and our chance to make them feel welcome in our community.”

The co-commanders program is currently in its second year.

This year, the program expanded to include the commanders of the Aerospace Data Facility and the 140th Wing of the Colorado National Guard. The 460th Public Affairs office hopes to expand the program to include other tenant and associate units here.



photo by Senior Airman Deanna Lenhart

Mr. Dale Mingilton of First Bank Holding Company talks with Col. Marty Whelan, 460th Space Wing vice commander, during the social hour following the 2nd Co-Commander Induction ceremony Tuesday evening.

## Traumatic injury protection added to SGLI

SAN ANTONIO (AFP)

— Servicemembers were enrolled in a new program yesterday that expands benefits provided through Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance.

The traumatic SGLI benefit provides payouts of up to \$100,000 for service-members with traumatic injuries.

Benefits will be retroactive from Oct. 7, 2001, for servicemembers who have lost limbs, eyesight or speech, or received other traumatic injuries as a direct result of injuries received during Operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom, Veterans Affairs officials said. The benefit does not apply to servicemembers suffering from disease.

Those enrolled in the SGLI program will notice an increase in their premiums when this program goes into effect. The traumatic SGLI benefit will be rolled into the basic SGLI program and will cost \$1 per month, said Stephen Wurtz, the VA’s deputy assistant director for insurance.

TSGLI cannot be declined unless the service-member also declines basic SGLI coverage, VA officials said.

### Buckley AFB welcomes:

Mr. Tom Allee, Mr. Rich Allison, Ms. Sheila Anthony, Mr. Bob Barke, Mr. Art Bogardus, Dr. Linda Bowman, Mr. Bill Castleberry, Mr. Harrison Cochran, Mr. Dave Ferrill, Ms. Nancy Freed, Ms. Diane Garcia, Mr. Larry Grandison, Mr. Dick Hinson, Mr. Kevin Hougen, Mr. Bob Jamieson, Mr. Ken Melcher, Mr. Ron Miller, Mr. Dale Mingilton, Ms. Sandy Neves, Lt. Gov. Jane Norton, Chief Daniel Oates, Mr. Stephen Peck, Pastor John Petty, Ms. Angela Phillips, Mayor Randy Pye, Mayor Ed Tauer, Mr. Jeff Thompson, Ms. Cheryl Twesme and Ms. Kathy Yeager.



# PCSing this winter?

## Make the move a smooth one -- despite the weather

By Ms. Mary Schumbert  
460th Logistics Readiness Squadron

The winter moving season is here, and keeping a few simple tips in mind can help anyone who’s moving this winter keep headaches to a minimum.

Major snow storms may delay pickup and delivery of your household goods. To minimize inconvenience if it does storm, people should plan an extra day between scheduled pick-up and departure dates.

People are responsible for clearing walkways of snow and ice, including outdoor sheds. Failure to provide a clear path can delay a move.

Also, people need to leave their phones and other utilities connected until all property has been picked up.

Since the Traffic Management Office hasn’t yet

figured out how to control the weather, the best way to prepare for a winter move is to build in flexibility for the unexpected.

The office also reminds winter movers of these standard PCS tips:

- Get up early and be ready for the movers. They normally arrive between 8 and 9 a.m. depending on the type and weight of shipment being moved.
- Control and contain pets before movers arrive. Consider letting them stay with a neighbor, in a kennel or shutting them in a room out of the way.
- Make sure cash, jewelry, important documents and valuable items are secure and not accessible to the packers. Many people lock valuables in their car trunk or hotel room.
- Disconnect electrical appliances before movers arrive and clean them up. These

simple actions make it easier to pack and handle the items.

■ Call the Quality Control Section at Buckley Air Force Base at 720-847-6686 if you have any problems arise on the day of your pack or delivery.

JPPSO-Colorado Springs does the actual booking and billing documentation with the Commercial Industry Carrier. Buckley AFB TMO counsels each member and completes documents to effect shipment moves and sends it to JPPSO-COS for booking.

The key to a smooth move is proper planning and remaining flexible. Servicemembers should call 720-847-6685 when they get orders, and should have household goods moving documentation completed 35-45 days before the actual moving day. Also, servicemembers should make port call and air-line reservations in advance.

# Good money management makes holidays merrier

## Practicing smart spending during the holidays could save big bucks

courtesy 460th Public Affairs

Cha-ching! That’s a sound many people might find all too familiar during the holidays.

For some, the sound brings a smile as they imagine the look on someone’s face as he or she receives a gift. For others, it’s the sound of increasing debt reaching ever-higher levels because they didn’t prepare for their holiday spending.

The holiday season is a time when a careful eye on your finances throughout the year can pay off, says Mr. Bob Matzke, Buckley’s Personal Financial Management Program manager and Air Force Aid Society Officer. And according to Mr. Matzke, all it takes is a little planning.

Many people do not have a savings plan, and many turn to credit when cash is not available. This is where trouble can start.

“I see a lot of people only using credit during the holidays,” says Mr. Matzke. “What they’re doing is just obligating future money to pay back credit cards.”

The problem with using

credit is that most people tend to spend more than they would if they paid in cash.

While it may be too late to start this year, there are different types of spending plans that can be set up to save cash for next year and avoid relying on credit, according to Mr. Matzke.

“People should set a month-to-month spending plan and work holiday spending into that budget,” said Mr. Matzke.

Another method could be to set up a savings account separate from your primary account, with an allotment going into that account every payday. Some people call this a ‘Christmas Club account.’

Many people may not be

able to spare money for a savings account. In this situation, members should begin to think about the pay raises next year. Whatever increase in pay people receive, they can put most or all of it into a savings account and it shouldn’t affect them much because they got by without that money before.

Mr. Matzke says for people that have difficulties saving money each month and don’t want to use credit during the holidays, there is another option.

“If you have a pretty good idea of what gifts you want to



### -- *Water*, continued from pg. 3

The act, considered by some to be a cornerstone of the environmental protection movement, outlines the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program and regulates storm water run-off.

Initiatives outlined under Phase 2 of the program, which expanded Phase 1 regulation from larger municipalities to other participants, began requiring the base to regulate its storm sewer system about 18 months ago, Mr. Oldweiler said.

“The efforts of individuals can really go a long way in improving water quality,” he said. “By and large, they are very simple and straightforward. Anything dumped or dropped on the ground or in the gutter contributes to

storm water pollution.”

Efforts to improve local water quality can be as simple as putting trash in trash bins, Mr. Oldweiler said.

**“The efforts of individuals can really go a long way in improving water quality.”**

**-Mr. Corwin Oldweiler**

The simple efforts to prevent pollution make for improved water quality in natural streams and drainages, which helps promote healthy streams and water ecosystems.

“A lot of people here have a hard time making the connection (between trash on the ground and storm water pollution) because there really don’t appear to be any active, flowing drainages in the area,” Mr. Oldweiler said. “But there are, in fact, active ecosystems that are affected by the pollution.”

-- see *Money*, pg. 7

# Police Blotters

## Assistance rendered

Location: Flightline  
The fire department notified security forces that a medical evacuation plane was coming in and an ambulance from Aurora Metro was in need of escort to pick up a patient from a plane on the flight line. A security patrol was dispatched for assistance. The patrol turned over escort duties to the 140th Security Forces at Hangar 909, and then escorted the ambulance from the flightline to the plane and off the installation.

## Security violation

Location: Bldg. 498  
Two security patrols were dispatched in response to an alarm activation. They witnessed an Airman walk up to the inbound lane at Bldg. 498, and then after seeing no one there, proceed to his vehicle parked north of Bldg. 498. The Airman started to drive southbound toward Bldg. 410 where he was stopped and challenged by a security patrol. The Airman stated that he thought Bldg. 498 was the main entrance to the restricted area. The security patrol obtained the Airman’s

identification card and verified clearance. An Air Force Form 3907, Field Interview Data sheet, was collected from the Airman.

## AA&E Shipment

Security forces were notified by R&R Shipping that an ammunition shipment had arrived at Buckley Air Force Base. Security forces contacted 140th Traffic Management Office to coordinate escort through the crash gate. The 140th TMO stated that they had not been notified of a shipment. A security patrol was dispatched to the scene at the crash gate. The 140th Civil Engineers Squadron removed barriers at the crash gate. The 140th Wing initiated escort of the shipment to the munitions storage area. The security patrol secured the crash gate.

## Minor vehicle accident

Location: Bldg. 410  
Security forces was contacted and informed that a guard had closed a security gate on a vehicle. A security patrol responded. A civilian contractor stated that while driving out the outbound lane the gate was closed on his

vehicle. The guard stated that he had hit the button to close the gate while checking the identification of someone in the pedestrian gate without checking to see if there was traffic in the path of the gate. The security patrol completed a 460 SFS Form 840 and an Air Force Form 1168.

## Shoplifting

Location: Bldg. 1  
An AAFES store detective notified security forces that he had a person stopped for shoplifting. A security patrol responded. The store detective related that he watched the subject take a book and a deck of Wizard of the Coast Magic cards to the dressing room, come out of the dressing room, and place the book and box of the cards back on the shelf. The store detective went to the shelf where the book and box of cards were. He inspected the box and noticed it had been opened and there were no cards inside. The store detective made contact with the suspect and escorted him to the security office. The incident was recorded via store surveillance video. The deck of cards was in the

suspect’s pants pocket and was recovered by the store detective. The security patrol detained the suspect for shoplifting and transported him to Bldg. 620 where he was advised of his rights in the presence of his legal guardian. The suspect requested legal counsel and refused to make a statement or answer questions. An Air Force Form 3545 was accomplished.

## Emergency medical response

Location: Football field near Sixth Avenue gate  
Security forces were notified by the fire department that an individual injured his knee while playing football. The individual was transported to the Medical Center of Aurora-South by Rural Metro Ambulance for further evaluation.

## Emergency fire response

Location: Bldg. 426  
The fire department notified security forces that they were responding to Bldg. 426 for a master fire alarm. A security patrol responded. The fire chief stated the cause of the alarm was a malfunction in the master fire panel.

# First enlisted systems operator graduates AFIT

By Ms. Stacey McCausland  
AFSPC News Service

**LOS ANGELES AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.** — A senior master sergeant recently became the first enlisted space systems operator to graduate from the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Senior Master Sgt. Charles Bilbey, Space-Based Infrared Systems System Exploitation superintendent was selected for the program while assigned to Buckley Air Force Base. He graduated Sept. 13 from the Enlisted-to-AFIT Program. Previously an officer-only opportunity, the AFIT Program opened to enlisted members in 2003. Meeting the requirements and accepting the three-year active duty service commitment upon graduation, Sergeant Bilbey joined the second class offered, which included only 11 enlisted members.

“My decision to attend AFIT was driven by my thirst for knowledge and my dedication to be the best leader I can,” he said.

He has more than 25 years of service including 17 years

as an aircraft structural maintenance technician and eight years in the space career field. “I do not like to say ‘I don’t know.’” As a senior enlisted leader, I believe it is my job to have the answers or know where to get them,” he said.

When he received word that he had been accepted to AFIT, he was on a temporary-duty assignment at Randolph AFB, Texas. Sergeant Bilbey was helping update the 1C6 promotion test in an effort to broaden his knowledge of the space career field.

“Out of all the enlisted career fields eligible, that of 1C6 had the most direct correlation to the degree program,” said his mentor, retired Chief Master Sgt. Doug Anding, a civilian contractor with the AFSPC Space Professional Management Office, Peterson AFB, Colo.

With the support of his wife, Micaela, and his mentor, he began the Graduate of Space Systems Program in October of 2003. Although he had a technical undergraduate degree, it was not engineering in nature.

“I wish we could get more people into the (Enlisted-to-

AFIT) program,” said Chief Anding, “but it does require a great deal of math.” Not everyone is willing to go the extra mile.

He was allotted two-and-a-half years rather than the usual 18-month schedule so he could complete calculus, differential equations and physics, undergraduate courses considered necessary to ensure success in the AFIT program. By taking courses at Wright State University and AFIT at the same time, he was able to graduate in less than two years.

“For my thesis, I developed a very preliminary Matlab – a tool for doing numerical computations with matrices and vectors – coded algorithm that would mathematically simulate the behavior of maneuverable re-entry vehicles as they re-enter the earth’s atmosphere,” said Sergeant Bilbey. “AFIT was a rewarding experience I won’t soon forget.”

Prior to his recent assignment here, Sergeant Bilbey’s experience in the space operations career field included an assignment to the attack launch and early report to theater missile warning system



Photo by Ms. Stacey McCausland

**As part of the rapid prototype team for the Space-Based Infrared System, 2nd Lt. Luke O’Sullivan, SBIRS System Exploitation project officer, and Senior Master Sgt. Charles Bilbey, SBIRS System Exploitation superintendent, work together to bring new technology to their customer, the 2nd Space Warning Squadron, in a more timely manner.**

operated by the 11th Space Warning Squadron at Schriever AFB, Colo., as the operations superintendent.

When the 11th SWS was deactivated, he was then assigned as the squadron superintendent of the 2nd SWS, the replacement system

of “attack launch and early report to theater,” as well as other mission areas, including SBIRS here.

“I would give any enlisted member considering the Enlisted-to-AFIT Program the same advice I received when I was considering it—go for it!”



# Consumer group, safety officials expose toy hazards

courtesy 460th Public Affairs

Shoppers who strive to purchase safe, age-appropriate toys are well-advised to do their homework before heading out to stores this holiday season, according to a nationwide survey released last year by the Denver-based Colorado Public Interest Research Group.

In 2003, more than 200,000 people sought treatment in hospital emergency rooms for toy-related injuries; more than a third of those injured were under five years of age. Eleven children under the age of 15 died from toy-related injuries in 2003, according to CoPIRG statistics.

CoPIRG is a state-wide nonprofit, nonpartisan public interest organization that does consumer work, according to

Mr. Benjamin Johnson, spokesman. The organization has released 19 toy safety reports over the past 20 years. The group also produces annual reports about identity theft, credit lending, payday lending and other consumer issues.

The annual CoPIRG “Trouble in Toyland” report, available in English and Spanish at [www.toysafety.net](http://www.toysafety.net), offers safety guidelines for purchasing toys for small children and provides examples of toys currently on store shelves that pose potential safety hazards.

CoPIRG’s reports have led to more than 120 Consumer Product Safety Commission recalls and other enforcement actions. The CPSC took action on 17 toys identified in the 2003 report.

CoPIRG’s research focused on four categories of potential

toy dangers:

**Choking Hazards**

Choking on small parts, small balls and balloons remains a leading cause of toy-related deaths and injuries. Although most toys on store shelves are safe, researchers still found toys for children under three with small parts and toys with small parts for children under six without the statutory choke hazard warning. Balloons are a common choking hazard for children under eight years old.

**Dangerously Loud Toys**

Last year, the American Society for Testing and Materials set new, voluntary acoustics standard for toys in order to protect children’s hearing. The voluntary standard says that most toys should not produce a sound louder than 90 decibels when measured from a distance of about 10 inches.

CoPIRG researchers tested several toys and found several toys currently on toy store shelves may not meet the new ASTM standards, and several toys currently on toy store shelves exceed 100 decibels when measured at close range. Prolonged exposure to sounds at 85 decibels or higher can result in hearing damage.

**Potentially Toxic toys**

Researchers found many examples of children’s nail polish containing xylene, a synthetic chemical produced from petroleum, and dibutyl phthalate, a chemical recently banned in the European Union for use in children’s products. Since children are prone to putting their hands in their mouths, nail polish offers a direct route of exposure to these potentially toxic chemicals. CoPIRG recommends that parents carefully read product labels and call on manufacturers to eliminate toxic chemicals from children’s cosmetics.

**Strangulation Hazards**

Several countries have banned the popular yo-yo water ball because of incidents in which the toy wrapped tightly around children’s necks or caused other injuries to the eyes, face and head. As of October 2004, the CPSC had received almost 400 injury reports related to yo-yo water balls, including

eight in Colorado.

The toy list in the report is only a sampling of the potential hazards on store shelves.

“Shoppers should examine all toys carefully for hidden dangers before they make a purchase this holiday season,” said Mr. Davis. “While most manufacturers comply with the law, parents should not assume that all toys on store shelves are safe or adequately labeled.”

Despite the fact that there are some toys that can pose dangers, there are other safe options for shoppers, according to Mr. Davis. “When purchasing toys, safety and age-appropriateness are the key considerations,” he said. “Caution and common sense win in the end.”



courtesy art



courtesy art

**-- Money, continued from pg. 5**

buy, you can buy them throughout the year. There are sales throughout the year and (you can) also use coupons,” said Mr. Matzke.

“(You can give) gift certificates or cash for after-holiday sales and then they get what they want,” he said.

Shopping throughout the year is a trick not only known by Mr. Matzke.

There is one thing Mr. Matzke says about people who spend too much or have to use credit during the holi-

days: The holidays come at the same time every year, so it shouldn’t come as a surprise to anybody.

No matter what you’re method is for holiday shopping, if you save the money to shop with and avoid credit cards, you’re probably going to have a little less stress during the holiday season. And with the approach of a new year, putting money into savings should be a resolution.

To talk to Mr. Matzke about budgeting and debt management classes, call 720-847-6708.

## America supports you

### Group links GIs to families for the holidays

**By Sgt Sara Wood**  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – This holiday season, military members serving overseas will have a chance to send their love to their families in a very special way, thanks to a Denver-based nonprofit organization.

Operation Hope, a program started two and a half years ago by the Beacon of Hope Outreach Center, is launching a service called Home for the Holidays. This service allows military men and women serving overseas to register their families for gifts, said Mr. Leo Pacheco, president and executive director of Beacon of Hope Outreach Center.

Servicemembers can register their families via the Operation Hope Web site, and their children’s names will then be put on a giving tree under a partnership with Toys R’ Us and Amazon.com. The

gifts will be purchased and donated by other people, and Operation Hope will ship them to the families as a gift from the servicemember.

Additionally, a special gift basket will be shipped to the spouse along with the presents.

Included in the package is a disposable camera for the family to use to record the holiday. When the camera is full, Operation Hope will develop the pictures and send them to the servicemember.

The Home for the Holidays service was designed to help support military families and make the stressful times of deployments a little easier, Mr. Pacheco said.

“We know that it’s a very difficult thing when you are deployed and separated from your family,” he said.

Volunteers are the driving force behind Operation Hope, Mr. Pacheco said. Most are from the Denver area, but

schools, churches and other groups across the country have helped the organization by conducting drives to collect items for care packages. The supportive response from civilians has been a very pleasant surprise for him.

“I think the most amazing thing, that we did not expect, is how very supportive civilians are across the United States,” he said. “I think one of the messages that they have all wanted to express the most is how very supportive we are of our military and that’s why they do this.”

Operation Hope is a member of America Supports You, a nationwide program launched by the Defense Department.

“The great thing is, they’re linking all of us together and making it possible for families and members of the military to have access to all of the programs that are out there,” said Mr. Pacheco.



### Dining Facility menu

The Mile High Guardian will no longer publish the weekly menus.

People interested in knowing what the Buckley Dining Facility is serving can now call 720-847-9869.

The menu is updated daily.

# Star Performer

**Name:** Ms. Ann M. Roberts

**Unit:** 460th Mission Support Squadron, Military Personnel Flight

**Time in Service:** 11 months as a civil service employee, but recently retired as a master sergeant after serving 20 years in information management

**Duty Title:** Human Resources Assistant, Awards and Decorations Monitor, Unit Personnel Record Group Manager

**Hometown:** Fort Wayne, Ind.

**Hobbies:** Walking, reading, shopping, and spending time with my dog, Taffy.

**How do your day-to-day duties contribute to mission success?**

I ensure decorations are processed, which helps members with promotion testing, and I make sure all required documents are filed in the Unit Personnel Record Group, which ensures records are complete and documents are available, when needed.

**If you could change one thing about the Air Force what would it be?**

In this position, I deal with A LOT of paperwork. I would like to see the Air Force reduce the amount of

paperwork required to process awards and decorations. I’m aware the Air Force is looking to implement ways to streamline the processes required for awards and decorations and even UPRG management.

**What has been your most memorable experience in the Air Force?**

I’m retired from the Air Force, but I’m writing this from my 11 months experience working as a civilian. I haven’t had much time to have any memorable experiences, but if I had to come up with one, I’d have to say the appreciation I’ve received from customers is what I find most memorable. I don’t know if others would view appreciation as a “memorable experience,” but for me, it’s what makes the job worthwhile. At the end of the day, I go home feeling a sense of accomplishment knowing that I’ve helped someone.

**Duties, responsibilities, and accomplishments:**

I control access and release of the Unit Personnel Record Group information and maintain the UPRGs to protect the government’s and individuals’ legal and financial rights. I also update, deal with



photo by 1st Lt. Caroline Wellman

**Ms. Ann Roberts, 460th Mission Support Squadron, specializes in paperwork, but all for a good cause. As the awards and decorations monitor and unit personnel record group manager, she impacts people’s careers by ensuring decorations are processed, and all personnel paperwork is complete and available.**

inquiries and process actions through the Military Personnel Data System, as well as independently process decoration packages and validate recipient award entitlements. And for 2005, I was the 1st Quarter 460th MSS PEAK Performer of the Quarter.



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# Happenings

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## High-tech job fair

The Department of Labor and the Buckley AFB Family Support Center will co-host a High-tech Job Fair Dec. 9 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in the main auditorium of Bldg. 606. More than 12 employers seeking recruits for high-tech employment will be present. Those wishing to attend are strongly encouraged to bring their resume. For more information call the Family Support Center at 720-847-6694.

## New customer service hours

The customer service ID card section now has new hours of operation. The office will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday – Friday; closed on holidays and 460th Space Wing down days. For more information call 720-847-9159.

## Comptrollers to meet

The Mile High Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold their next meeting Dec. 14 at 11:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Mr. Bruce Porter, a motivational speaker. Those interested in attending can call Maj. Chris DeJesus at 720-847-6956.

## Ski team seeks members

The Front Range Military Ski Team’s 2005-2006 ski season has begun. The team is looking for skiers who have racing experience or are strong recreational skiers, snowboarders or tele-

markers. The team is a member of a weekend race group called TeamSki, Inc. that sponsors seven weekend races at local ski resorts. Members must be at least 18 years of age and must be active duty, Reserve, Guard, or Department of Defense civilians or dependents of those groups. For more information call Jon Gaines at 720-847-7978.

## OB orientation class

An obstetrics orientation class will be held Dec. 14 from 8 a.m. to noon in the Health and Wellness Center. Topics include what to expect in the first and second trimester, exercise and nutrition during pregnancy, oral hygiene during pregnancy, breastfeeding and prenatal care. This class is offered by the New Parent Support Program and is a service of the Family Advocacy Program. To register, call 720-847-6453. For additional program information call 720-847-5349.

## Free Admission

Take time to visit the Colorado Museum of Nature and Science’s exhibit Grossology: The (impolite) Science of the Human Body now showing through Jan. 1, 2006. The museum is open seven days a week, with the exception of Christmas Day, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum offers free museum admission to active duty members of the military and their families. Separate fees still apply to

IMAX, Planetarium and temporary exhibits. For more information on the museum, visit their Web site at [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org).

## Santa to visit Buckley

Santa will make his annual visit to Buckley AFB when he arrives aboard an F-16 at 10 a.m. Sunday. Children of military members assigned to Buckley AFB are welcome to visit the jolly old elf, Mrs. Claus and an elf or two, and receive a holiday bag of goodies. The Buckley Christmas Santa Fest will be held in the west end of Hangar 801 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

## Santa comes to Aurora

Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive, by helicopter, at Aurora City Park, 16th Avenue and Dayton Street, Saturday at 5 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus will proceed from the park to Fletcher Plaza, Colfax Avenue and Emporia Street, for the 19th annual lighting of the community tree. Events will then move to the Martin Luther King, Jr., Library, 9898 E. Colfax Ave., where children will have the opportunity to whisper their Christmas wish list to Santa and receive goodies from the elves. For more information call the Northern Aurora Business Association at 303-361-6169.

## Festival of Trees

The 3rd annual Festival of Trees

runs through Dec. 4 at the Wildlife Experience, 10035 S. Peoria St. in Parker. This event features more than 150 trees, wreaths and other holiday treasures. Hours are 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. The Wildlife Experience is offering 50 percent off admission prices for current and former members of the military. An ID card must be presented when seeking admission. For more information, call 720-488-3300.

## Winter Festival Exhibit

The original Aurora Downtown Arts District presents the Winter Festival Exhibition through Jan. 28. More than 27 fine and applied artists are participating in the exhibition. The exhibition is located at 1556 Florence St. and is open Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call East End Applied Arts at 720-203-3575 or visit their Web site at [www.EastEndArts.com](http://www.EastEndArts.com).

## Call for closet authors

Is your cat the only one who knows you’re a writer? Enter the Unknown Writer’s contest sponsored by the Denver Woman’s Press Club. Fiction, non-fiction and poetry submissions are welcome. Entries must be postmarked no later than Feb. 1, 2006. For contest rules and an entry form, call 303-839-1519, or visit their Web site at [www.denverwomanspressclub.org](http://www.denverwomanspressclub.org).

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# Health & Fitness

## Do You Know...

...that in Colorado the legal threshold for driving under the influence of alcohol is .08. This means that the current legal limit for operating a motor vehicle is 0.08%, or 80 mg/dL among drivers who are age 21 years or older. The legal drinking age in Colorado is 21, and so, there is zero tolerance for drivers who are under age 21 years, meaning that they are not allowed to operate a motor vehicle with any alcohol in their system.

...the average person metabolizes about one standard drink per hour.

...one drink of alcohol equals 1 ounce of 80 proof or 1 ounce of 100 proof whiskey, 5 ounces of wine, or 12 ounces of regular or light beer.

...alcohol can harm the liver, brain and heart. Drinking too much can raise blood pressure. If your doctor says you have high levels of “triglycerides” in your blood, you should be careful about drinking alcohol.

...the empty calories of alcoholic beverages can be quite fattening. Alcoholic drinks contain calories, about 70-180 calories per drink, depending on the type. In addition, the effects of alcohol consumption might cause you to loosen your resolve to limit your food intake. Try sparkling water or juice instead.

**\*\*During the holiday season, parties and opportunities to celebrate abound. Enjoy the holidays, but drink responsibly. Use a designated driver and remember to call 720-847-RIDE for transportation home when you’ve had too much to drink.\*\***

*Adapted from the Council on Family Health in cooperation with the National Consumers League and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.*

## SnoFest is just around the “mountain”

*courtesy 460th Public Affairs*

The 16th annual Front Range SnoFest ski weekend extravaganza is just around the corner.

The three-day event, scheduled for Jan. 27-29 at the Keystone Resort, is a military appreciation ski and snow-board event for military service members, Department of Defense civilians, non-appropriated fund employees, contractors and family members.

Friday’s activities will feature NASTAR racing with awards going to the fastest individuals, squadron teams and installations. Saturday NASTAR events will emphasize family and youth. Teams need to register with the Buckley Air Force Base Outdoor Recreation Office at 720-847-6101.

Both Friday and Saturday nights will

feature parties at the Keystone Conference Center and will include live music, food, a cash bar, drawings, prizes and awards. Party tickets are \$13. Parties are scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m., with food buffets from 6 to 7:30 p.m., both days. Friday’s theme is “Fabulous 50s,” while Saturdays will feature a “Western Roundup.”

Adult one-day, Keystone-only lift tickets are \$34. Children ages 5 to 12 can purchase one-day, Keystone-only lift tickets for \$22. Children ages 4 and under ski free. All tickets are available at the Information, Tickets and

Tours office in Mod 2, or at SnoFest in the Mountain House and at lodging check-in at the conference center Jan. 27.

Lodging at Keystone for the event is priced below wholesale and is available now by calling 1-800-258-0437. Reservations are available now through Jan. 6. Anyone making a reservation should use the group code GV7FEST. Please provide the code and base affiliation when booking a reservation.

Any event worker can make reservations with the workers’ group code: GV7SFWB. Workers will

need a government travel card number at the time of booking, but the card will not be charged until 21 days prior to arrival.

For more information, stop by the ITT Office for a brochure or log onto [www.usafaservices.com](http://www.usafaservices.com).



courtesy art



# SBIRS takes flag in football league



Above, Corey Edmonds, 460th Operations Group executive officer, looks for an open receiver during the flag football championship game Monday. At right, Kevin Balcom of the 2nd Space Warning Squadron escapes the arms of Josh “Big Fatty” Christensen.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Chenzira Mallory

By 1st Lt. Caroline Wellman  
460th Public Affairs

SBIRS took on MACS-23 in the year’s final flag football game Monday. SBIRS defeated the Marines 24-8 in the championship on the dirt, despite a knee injury to the Operations Group’s Daniel St. James. SBIRS was undefeated this season, and coach Kevin Balcom was wise to recruit quarterback Corey Edmonds. Edmonds has played in the championship game the last three years, although for three different teams. “I changed the whole game plan to control the (SBIRS) quarterback,” said Donnie Thompson, MACS-23 coach and quarterback. “Earlier in the season, they

had beaten us by one touch-down.” MACS-23 knew what to expect. Edmonds had proven a lethal rusher throughout the season. “We forced him to throw a lot of short passes, ” Thomspson said. With their quarterback facing a continual rush, other SBIRS team members had a chance to shine. “They just had more weapons on their team,” Thompson said. “And we made a lot of mistakes -- a lot of dropped passes and penalties. MACS-23 beat the undefeated Army team in a surprise upset during semi-final play to earn a berth in the championship.



*May your day be merry and bright...*

**Team Buckley  
hosts first  
base-wide  
holiday potluck**

It’s being whispered that some of you may be suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome, the result of previous potlucks that ran out of food before you, deserving person that you are, got to the serving tables.

Your commanders seek to rectify this ailment and leave you with visions of turkey and ham and sweet treats galore.

On Thursday, Team Buckley is throwing the mother of all bashes featuring turkey and ham provid-

ed by commanders at Hangar 909.

Civilians and E-4’s and above are admitted by presenting the salads, the side dishes, the veggies, the desserts, the breads, or the drinks (all in disposable serving dishes) your unit has been assigned.

E-1’s through E-3’s are not required to bring anything but themselves, in appropriate holiday moods.

This potluck is open to all of Buckley -- all military, all ranks, active duty, guard, reserve, civilians, and contractors.

The potluck will take place from noon to 4 p.m., but food should be dropped off at Hangar 909 by 11 a.m.

Fresh meats and side dishes will be continually presented, with meats being prepared by certified professionals to alleviate health concerns.

Organizations are requested to plan on decorating at least one table in a holiday, festive, creative or otherwise unique mode. Decorations can be as simple or extravagant as the organization wishes.

Eat, drink and be merry as you celebrate the holidays with Buckley.

If you’ve not heard the buzz already, contact Jasmin Malboeuf in the Protocol Office at 720-847-6929 for more information.

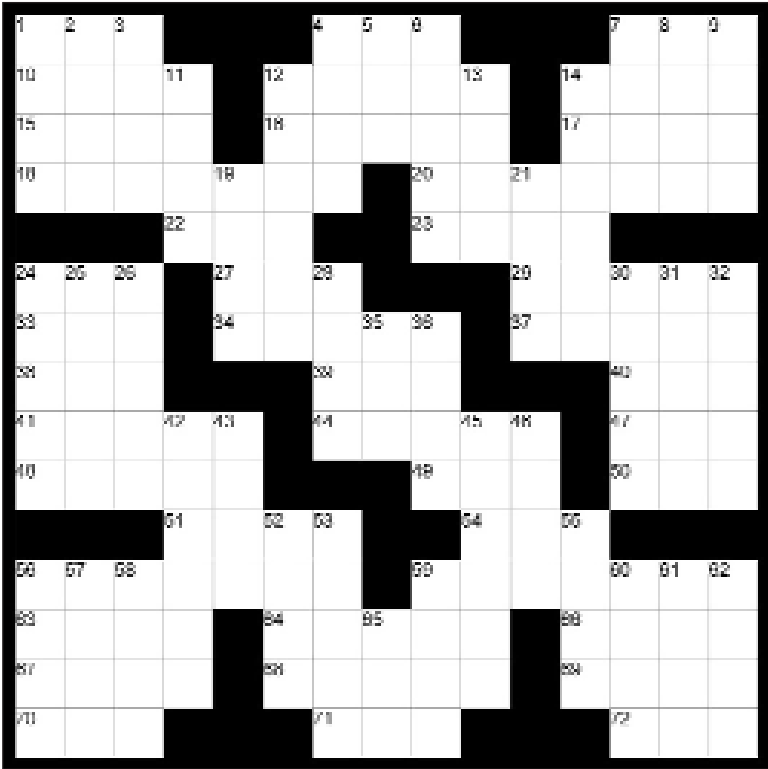
Munitions Drop!

ACROSS

- 1. Jam holder
- 4. Federal org. concerned with housing
- 7. Mas’ counterpart
- 10. Much
- 12. Boos
- 14. Portion
- 15. Sample of music
- 16. Spooky
- 17. Push toward
- 18. Afrikaans monkey
- 20. AIM-7
- 22. Actress \_\_\_\_-Margaret
- 23. Greek letters
- 24. USN equivalent to SJA
- 27. Air sovereignty mission since 9/11, in short
- 29. Oxidizes
- 33. USAF intel org.
- 34. Educate
- 37. Culture “dish”
- 38. Fast plane, in short
- 39. Actor Stephen
- 40. Charged molecule
- 41. Spatters
- 44. Magnetic and true
- 47. Egg \_\_\_\_; Yuletide beverage
- 48. Deserve
- 49. Mil. duty status, perhaps
- 50. System used to direct some munitions, in short
- 51. Blue color
- 54. \_\_\_\_ the season...
- 56. MK-20
- 59. AGM-84
- 63. Stuntman Knevel
- 64. Singer John
- 66. Opera highlight
- 67. Package
- 68. Blunders
- 69. Sandwich shop
- 70. Everything
- 71. Affirmative
- 72. Popeye’s gal Olive

DOWN

- 1. GBU-31/32
- 2. Away from the wind
- 3. City not built in a day
- 4. Measurement
- 5. Willis movie *Death Becomes* \_\_\_\_
- 6. Get up
- 7. Salmon during its first two years of life
- 8. Jason’s ship
- 9. Cooking dish
- 11. Repeated 3X for movie on Pearl Harbor
- 12. *People Will Talk* actress Crain
- 13. Fall mon.
- 14. Chase
- 19. Rope connection
- 21. Retiree’s org.
- 24. AGM-158
- 25. Corridor
- 26. CBU-89
- 28. Make pay
- 30. Twinge of pain
- 31. Nickname for Army individual
- 32. Croons
- 35. Co. head
- 36. AGM-88
- 42. In a \_\_\_\_; in a bind
- 43. Eye infection
- 45. HGM-25As
- 46. Head covering
- 52. Votes in favor
- 53. *Country Grammar* rapper
- 55. WWII aircraft
- 56. Singer McEntire
- 57. Track shape
- 58. Cubicle
- 59. Leaps
- 60. After school snack
- 61. Greasy
- 62. Wood fastener
- 65. Even



By Capt. Tony Wickman

Solutions to last issue’s puzzle...

